

Service Date: September 10, 2014

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF Ronan Telephone) REGULATORY DIVISION
Co. and Hot Springs Telephone Co.)
Rulemaking Petition, to Repeal PSC EAS) DOCKET NO. D2014.4.44
Rules ARM 38.5.1301 through 38.5.1315)

NOTICE OF PETITION AND ROUNDTABLE
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT

On May 1, 2014, Ronan Telephone Company (RTC) and Hot Springs Telephone Company (HSTC), petitioned the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) to initiate a rulemaking proceeding in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. §§ 2-4-302 through 2-4-305 (2013), to repeal the PSC Extended Area Service (EAS) rules, Admin. R. Mont. 38.5.1301 through 38.5.1315 (2014).

RTC and HSTC are Montana rural Local Exchange Companies (LECs) regulated by the Commission. RTC and HSTC argue that the existing rules are obsolete and “contribute to an unlevel competitive playing field.” RTC and HSTC assert that wireless companies “have a huge competitive advantage.” Therefore, RTC and HSTC propose that the EAS rules be repealed, thus “expanding wireline local calling areas in Montana, which will contribute to the competitiveness of the industry and add consumer value.”

On June 23, 2014, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline inviting interested parties to petition for intervention no later than July 18, 2014. This matter was improperly noticed as a contested case. The Commission hereby affords **interested persons, RTC and HSTC** an opportunity to submit comments related to the Petition **no later than September 29, 2014**. The Commission will also hold an informal roundtable discussion of the Petition on **October 6, 2014**, at 9:00 a.m., at the Commission's business offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620. Comments must be submitted by the September 29, 2014 deadline in order to be discussed at the roundtable.

In order to submit comments: (1) Submit the comments electronically (e-file) on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Account Login/Registration" under "Electronic Documents" tab); and (2) physically deliver or mail the original comments to the Commission at 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601. The Commission will not post e-filed comments to its website until it receives the original from the petitioner.

A copy of the Petition is available for inspection at the Commission's business offices and may also be viewed on its website at <http://psc.mt.gov> under Docket D2014.4.44.

The PSC has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3 of the Montana Code Annotated, and will treat this matter in accordance with Mont. Admin. R. 1.3.308, Mont. Code Ann. § 2-4-315, and Mont. Code Ann. §§ 2-4-302 through 2-4-305.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

W. A. (BILL) GALLAGHER, Chairman
BOB LAKE, Vice Chairman
KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Commissioner
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner